

REMARKS

1. Drawings

The drawings were objected to for incorrect reference numbering in FIG. 2. Enclosed is a marked up and replacement sheet showing FIG. 2 with reference numbers 42 and 44 interchanged. This is believed to overcome the cited objection. Figure 2 is also being amended to replace incorrect reference number "5" with --56--. Formal drawings will be provided following allowance of the application.

2. "oblique" recitation

Several objections and/or rejections to the specification and claims were raised in the Office action with respect to applicants' use of the term "oblique" with regard to the angled surfaces of the cutting sections. Applicants believe the confusion may stem from this term being read as "obtuse", which would not properly encompass angles of 15 and 45 degrees as noted in the Office action. The term "oblique" refers to a non-parallel and non-perpendicular relation and such an angle would thus be any angle that is not a right angle or multiples thereof. Fifteen and 45 degree angles are examples.

In light of this, the issues raised in the first sentence of paragraph 2 and in paragraph 4 (except for the claim 13 issue) are believed to be overcome.

3. "taper" and dimensional recitations

The specification was also objected to for stating that surfaces 38 and 39 "taper" back from their respective working edges. This term is hereby replaced by "angle" at paragraphs 8 and 27 and also in claim 1.

Reference for the specific angles stated in the specification and claim 3 is also made more clear. At paragraph 27, the surfaces 38 and 39 are said to angle back preferably 15 degrees from the inside of the working edges 26 and 27, and surfaces 40 and 41 angle preferably 45 degrees from surfaces 38 and 39. Claim 3 is amended to recited that the first surface angles from an inside of the working edge about 15 degrees and the second surface angles from the first surface about 45 degrees. Claim 4 is amended using similar terminology.

The partial sectional view is believed to provide adequate support for the amended language, and these amendments are believed to address the related issues.

4. Other specification issues

The typographical error in paragraph 32 on page 8 is also corrected to read -- Figure 7-- rather than "Figure 4".

5. Other claim issues

The rejection to claim 13 under § 112 is believed improper as the dimensions recited in the claim are stated in paragraph 13 at page 2 of the specification.

The antecedent basis issue with respect to "the first multi-angled cutting blade" is believed to be overcome by the amendment to claim 1.

Claims 6 and 11 are believed to unambiguously refer to only two "first" and "second" lever members, and the recitation "another lever member" quoted in paragraph 6 of the Office action is not believed to be part of any pending claim. Thus, the rejections to these claims are believed to be unsupported and overcome.

The term "essentially" has been inserted into claim 1 in the phrase "the working edges lie essentially adjacent each other when in a closed position".

Finally, applicants wish to note for the record that none of the amendments to the claims made herein are believed to be narrowing in nature such as to preclude the application of the doctrine of equivalents under the law of Festo.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. No fee is believed due for consideration of this timely response. Any fees deemed necessary, however, should be charged to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP DRAWING

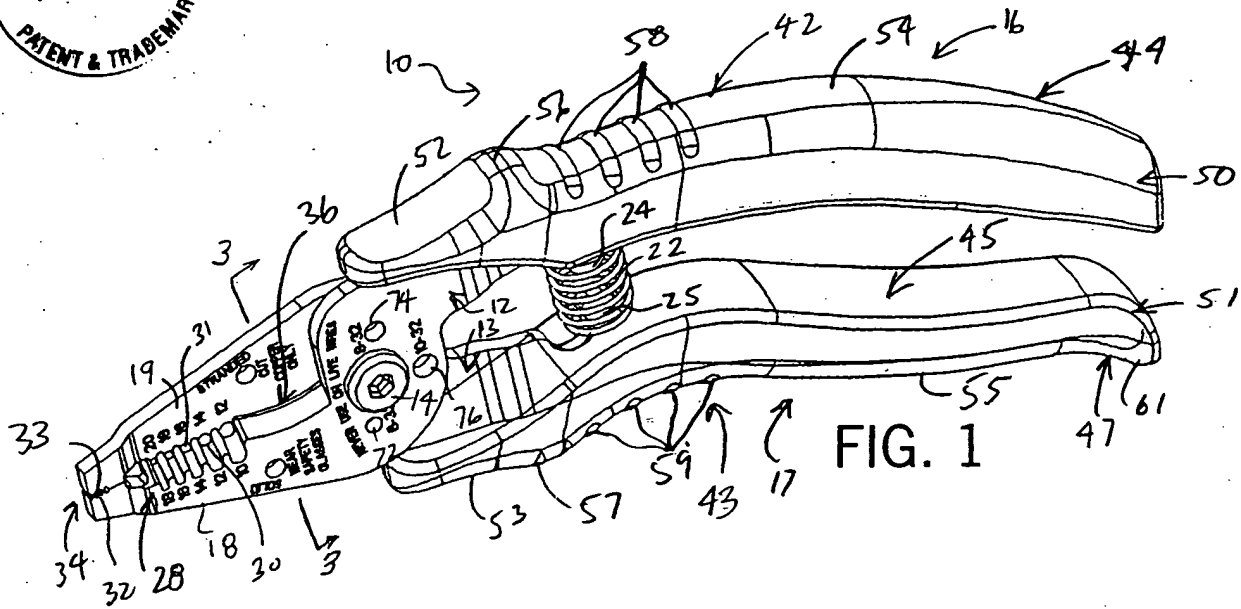


FIG. 1

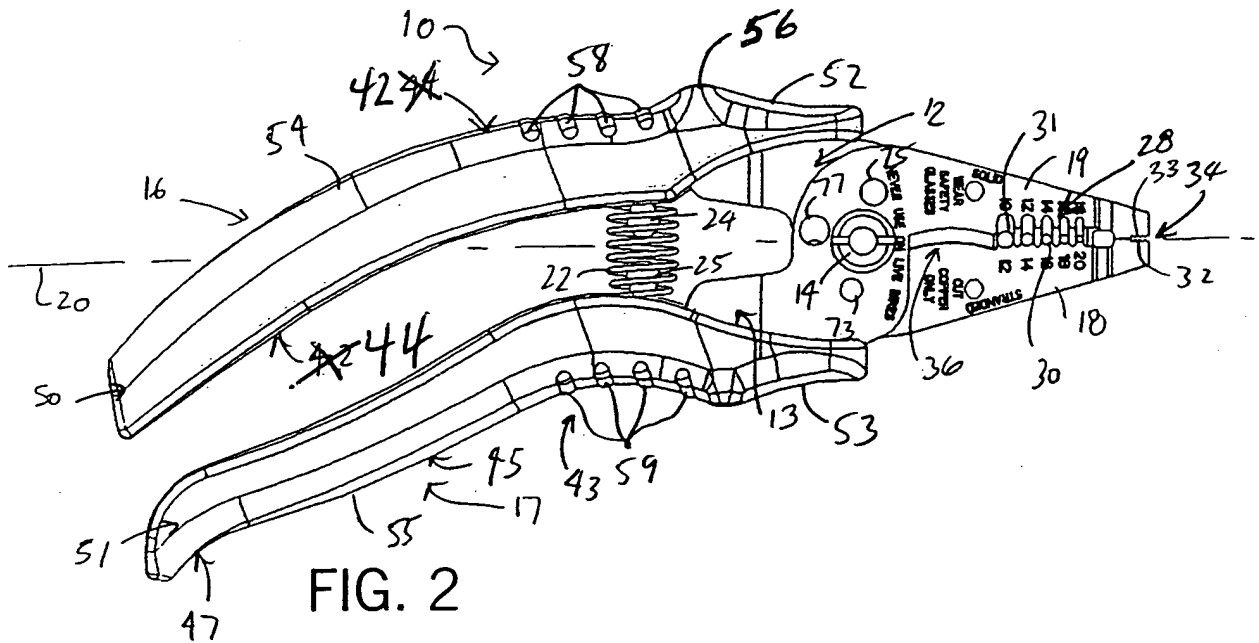


FIG. 2